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Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 26 | Min 21 | Humidity 82% Scattered Thunderstorms Sensex 82,626 | Nifty 25,327 | Gold 1,09,435 | Silver 1,28,545 | Dollar 88.11 | Euro 103.66 | GBP 118.91

JUSTICE DENIED

In 31,503 cases of rape, sexual harassment, dowry deaths, domestic cruelty filed across state during Jan 2023 to July 2025, only 66 convictions secured

PAGE 5

EMPTY CLASSROOM

Undergrad admissions crash by 45% in state universities; student numbers drop from 4.50 lakh in 2023-24 to 2.47 lakh in 2025-26

PAGE 7

Survey reveals just 11.39% of commuters in city use public transport and a whopping 41.06% use cars — as more companies look to mandate work-from-office on all weekdays, we have to look at sustainable ways to ease congestion on roads

DREAD AND JAM

Opt for buses, carpooling, suggest experts and officials

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A social media post has hinted that the city may have to face tighter traffic scenes starting October 1, as many companies have decided to end the work-from-home (WFH) arrangement for their employees. If more offices scrap the hybrid model and make work from office mandatory, the traffic situation can turn grave in a city where just 11.39% commuters rely on public transport. Joint Commissioner of Traffic Karthik Reddy noted that the situation could ease if more people opted for public transportation.

According to a survey by Numbeo, based on data collected over the past five years and last updated on September 14, the average commuter in Bengaluru spends about 53.68 minutes travelling. The survey also reveals that around 41.06% of the population relies on cars to get to work or school, while 23.38% use bicycles and 11.39% travel by motorcycles. In contrast, only 11.98% of commuters depend on buses or the metro for their daily travel.

For the past few months, many IT companies and private firms allowed staff to work from home particularly on Wednesday as

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11»

"The government should increase the number of buses. If people are not using public transport, it is often because they do not find it comfortable or because proper bus facilities are lacking

—Krishna Kumar Gowda, Vice President of the Greater Bengaluru IT and Companies Association

Sleepless in the 60s

Study shows senior citizens are struggling to fall asleep due to reasons such as worrying, going to bed angry or stressed, taking daytime naps

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If you thought only Gen Z was having a hard time sleeping due to poor sleep hygiene, think again. A study conducted by researchers at St. John's Medical College shows that even senior citizens in the IT city are staying up 'past their bedtime', albeit for different reasons.

While Gen Z has become the 'night owl' generation due to causes such as excessive use of technology, high screen time, blurred work-life boundaries, the fear of missing out, social media anxiety, etc., the rationale is different in the case of our senior citizens.

Those above 60 years of age often engage in unhygienic sleep practices, such as thinking, planning, or worrying in bed, going to bed angry or stressed, taking daytime naps, and using the bed for other activities like reading or watching television. These reasons among senior citizens are contributing to a higher probability of experiencing significant insomnia compared to those with hygienic sleep habits, which was shown in this study.

Researchers studied 125 elderly people in two urban primary health centres in the city and found that the majority of them (65% of the elderly) experienced insomnia,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Playful pandas, big fun

Get ready for a panda-powered cultural takeover! SOCIAL, in collaboration with the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB), presents PANDA-MONIUM, a month-long immersive experience turning 45 SOCIAL outlets across India into panda-inspired playgrounds. **Where: Social outlets Bangalore, Hyderabad, Pune; When: September 21 till October 21, 2025**

02 Festive handloom extravaganza

Immerse yourself in India's craftsmanship, discover festive treasures, and shop for Dussehra and Deepavali in style – all in one location! **Where: Siddharth Convention Centre, HSR Layout; When: September 19 till September 29, 10 am to 8 pm**

03 LOL returns this Wednesday

Bangalore's first comedy stage, LOL @ Urban Solace, returns with a brand-new line-up! Hosted by Shankar Chugani, this legendary platform has launched the careers of hundreds of comedians, including six of India's biggest comedy stars. Enjoy an evening of laughter, wit, and storytelling with some of the city's most loved comics. **Where: Urban Solace, Ulsoor; When: September 24, 8 pm to 9:30 pm**

04 Soulful Tuesday

Experience a soulful evening of poetry, emotion, and storytelling with Kary on Tuesdays with the Bard @ Urban Solace—where words come alive and hearts connect. **Where: Urban Solace, Ulsoor; When: September 23, 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm**

05 Taste Italy in Bengaluru

Join world-renowned Chef Diego Martinelli for a one-night-only Italian culinary journey. Indulge in signature dishes like Roasted Squash Cappellacci, Lobster Risotto, and Melanzane alla Parmigiana, blending classic recipes with modern finesse. **Where: The Leela Palace; Kodihalli; When: September 27, 7 pm**

Proposed Hebbal–Silk Board tunnel road project faces scrutiny

Experts oppose Bengaluru's Rs.17,698-cr Twin Tunnel Road project

City mobility experts raise doubts over the Rs. 17,698 crore road project. They recommend investing in bus lanes, suburban trains, and cycling infrastructure instead

The Karnataka Government proposed a ₹17,698 crore twin-tunnel road project from Hebbal to Silk Board aimed at easing Bengaluru's traffic, has come under scrutiny from city-based mobility experts. Concerns were raised over the project's feasibility, environmental impact, and long-term benefits were discussed during an event organised by Fridays For Future on Saturday.

Professor Ashish Verma, Convenor of Sustainable Transportation (IST) Lab, Indian Institute of Science (IISc) underlined that the outcome of macro simulation models run with different scenarios of toll roads, toll-free roads, and a potential traffic shift shows that the proposed tunnel road is likely to be an unaffordable and underutilised road infrastructure and will lead to an increase in vehicular emissions.

"The Twin Tunnel Road project does not offer equitable access and will increase emissions. There should be equilibrium. We have to focus on the quality of life of the city's residents. Bengaluru already has a high car-to-person ratio, and the tunnel may incentivise more car purchases, worsening congestion," he said.

Experts highlighted that while the city's bus capacity has remained the same over the past decade, the population has increased. According to Shaheen Shasa of Bengaluru Bus Prayanikara Vedike, Shakti Scheme, which incentivised bus travel for at least a portion of the population, has been one of the few elective measures that has helped the traffic and mobility issues in recent times.

"There is no master plan for the city, and the feasibility study conducted for the Tunnel Road is inadequate. It only proposes tunnels and elevated corridors as the sole solution. A simulation study in the feasibility report actually proposes investment in public transport, which is completely ignored in the DPR," said Shasa. Experts suggested that Bengaluru should invest in bus lanes, cycling infrastructure, metros, and suburban trains as a solution to address its growing traffic. "We should put a pause on such unscientific tunnel proposals and focus on fundamental solutions. Investing in buses, incentivising public transport, and ensuring last-mile connectivity is a straightforward solution," added Shasa. **— BMB**

Next-generation EV charger, courtesy IISc

Device links medium-voltage AC directly to EVs, removing bulky transformers and improving efficiency

Researchers at the Department of Electrical Engineering (EE) at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have developed a novel technique that eliminates the need for large and expensive line-frequency transformers to charge electric vehicles.

The cascaded H-bridge (CHB)-based multiport DC converter, developed by IISc in collaboration with Delta Electronics India directly connects to the medium-voltage AC (MVAC) electricity grid.

With the surging popularity of EVs, rapid charging poses a challenge, as it requires power delivery exceeding 1 MW, enough to supply approximately 1,000 homes. Conventional charging stations rely on bulky and expensive line-frequency transformers due to the use of copper and iron. These stations also have multiple conversion stages involving stepping up or down current, or converting AC to DC and vice versa which can greatly increase cost and reduce efficiency. Published in IEEE Transactions on Industrial Electronics, the study shows that such converters can help address the growing power demands of fast-charging EV stations, crucial for scaling up India's EV infrastructure.

"Today's high-power chargers are complex, with multiple conversion stages between the grid, the energy storage, and the vehicle battery. Our invention simplifies this process and offers a 3-5% improvement in energy efficiency. At a megawatt scale, this leads to energy savings, significant reductions in cost, and a smaller material footprint, making the charging stations more environmentally friendly," explains Kaushik Basu, Associate Professor in EE. Such converters would be especially helpful for stations where multiple vehicles need to charge simultaneously, points out Harisyam PV, first author and PhD student in EE. Along with power conversion, the technology facilitates a compact bidirectional charging hub that provides key advantages. In addition to powering multiple vehicles, it also enables local storage of charge in batteries and can easily be connected to renewable energy sources such as solar panels.

CHB-based multiport converter enables compact, rapid, energy-efficient, and environmentally sustainable high-power stations for simultaneous vehicle charging and renewable integration

Storing charge locally allows charging when there are sudden high-power demands on the grid. The bidirectional converter can transfer power from the grid to vehicles, and also from the station's storage back to the grid during critical conditions. The team built and tested a 1.2 kW lab-scale prototype and found it was able to supply DC power at an efficiency higher than 95%. They now plan to scale up the system to handle higher loads. Beyond EV charging, this technology also holds promise for data centres, wind energy systems, and railway traction.

Graduates face career setbacks due to delays

Repeated delays in issuing printed mark sheets by many Karnataka's universities are leaving undergraduate and postgraduate students struggling to secure employment. Though exams were completed between June and July and results declared by August in most universities, the final two semester mark sheets are still unavailable, with only provisional certificates being issued—documents many companies refuse to accept during verification. At Koppal and Kalaburagi universities, even degree results are pending, preventing students from enrolling in postgraduate courses. Similarly, results of the second, fourth and, sixth semesters have not yet been announced in Tumakuru, Mysuru, Belagavi, Dharwad, Davanagere, and Raichur universities, while Bengaluru North, Kuvempu, and Mangalore universities have published results but not delivered printed mark sheets.

Although digital copies of marked cards are uploaded on DigiLocker, several recruiters insist on original printed documents. Students complain that despite paying fees for all six semesters—including ₹220 per semester and additional charges for the final semester—they are not receiving hard copies. "It has been three years since mark sheets were issued regularly. Without originals, job opportunities are slipping away," said ABVP state secretary Praveen H.K. Responding to the criticism, Tumakuru University Vice-Chancellor Prof. M. Venkateshwarlu clarified that only consolidated mark sheets will be provided at the end of the course (sixth semester for UG, fourth semester for PG) to avoid delays. However, students argue that companies are unwilling to accept DigiLocker printouts, and the absence of timely original mark sheets is costing them their careers. **— BMB**

K-SET 2025 sparks outrage as eight subjects excluded

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has invited applications for the K-SET on November 2, 2025, but only for 33 subjects, dropping eight from last year's 41. Candidates, especially from folklore and linguistics, are angered. Mysuru's Centre for Endangered Languages and Haveri's Folklore University have produced 8,000 students, yet excluded. Tourism Administration, Criminology, Folklore, Literature, Archaeology, Anthropology, Marathi, Philosophy, and Linguistics are dropped. Of 33 subjects, 18 have multiple centres, but 15 only in Bengaluru, drawing criticism. **— BMB**

State-Level sports meet overlaps mandatory teacher survey

Even as the state government has made it mandatory for primary and high school teachers to participate in the Social and Educational Survey starting September 22, the Education Department has scheduled the 2023–24 state-level sports meet for physical education teachers, causing confusion. Workshops have already been conducted to assign responsibilities, and the government has issued strict directions that no teacher may skip the survey. At the same time, around 4,000 physical education teachers from government, aided, unaided, pre-university, and residential schools have been directed to attend the sports meet in Moodbidri.

The three-day event will run from September 24 to 26, with cricket participants required to report by the evening of September 23. Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa admitted the overlap and assured that officials would consider exempting PE teachers from survey duties during the meet. Last year, only district-level games were held, but this is the first time a state-level competition is being organised. The department has already released ₹24.45 lakh to the Deputy Director of Dakshina Kannada for arrangements. However, with nearly 90% of PE teachers assigned survey responsibilities, many, especially from Bidar, Kalaburagi, and neighbouring districts, are unsure whether to prioritise the mandatory survey or the sports meet. **— BMB**

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Classical moves meet city chaos in Malleswaram

Local dance campaign calls out slow-moving road repairs

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A unique protest: Dance meets civic frustration on the 8th Main, Malleswaram

Resorting to unusual methods to draw the attention of civic authorities towards the poor state of the city's roads is fairly common for Bangaloreans. After pothole puja, Squid Games-themed skit, and 3-D painting, Bharatanatyam comes to the rescue.

Annoyed by the never-ending pipe-laying work initiated by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewage Board (BWSSB) in March this year, residents of Malleswaram have devised a novel way to highlight their plight using expressive movements and gestures of Bharatanatyam to navigate the dug-up roads of Malleswaram. They are calling it 'Survival Skill Dance Academy.'

"People can marvel at the pristine state of the excavations on 8th Main and the incredible dancing skills of the residents who have become experts at navigating the roads in their neighbourhood. While living among mountains of excavated soil and dug-up roads, Bharatanatyam movements seem particularly apt to navigate them," said Preeti Sundarajan, a resident of Malleswaram who is a trained Bharatnatyam dancer. Residents say the video campaign has been released to draw the attention of authorities to the sad state of roads in Malleswaram.

According to locals, nearly a one-kilometre stretch on the 8th Main is in disarray due to pipe-laying work that started more than six months ago. While residents, along with senior citizens and children, are being subjected to dangerous situations every day, there is no clarity on the timeline of completion.

As BWSSB's pipe-laying work drags on for over six months, residents of Malleswaram have devised a creative protest—using Bharatanatyam gestures to cross mud-laden streets, highlighting the dangers posed to pedestrians and commuter

"No public consultation was done with citizens in the area before starting the work. There is no alternative arrangement for locals to move from one point to another. Many residents with senior citizens at home are always concerned about medical help not reaching in time if such needs arise," added Sundarajan. Sudin Rao, a resident of 13th Cross on 8th Main, lives with his octogenarian mother, who has been facing difficulty every day for the past six months.

"My mother is 86 years old, with comorbidities. However, she is active and likes to manage her daily life without assistance. But simple household chores like getting vegetables are becoming increasingly difficult for her. Since autos have stopped entering our road, she has to walk nearly 300 metres along a slippery, muddy stretch to reach the main road," says Rao. Dr Gopal Gummaraju, another resident of the area, who is also a paediatrician, says attending emergency cases has been nothing short of a nightmare.

"I am a paediatrician, and my wife is a gynecologist. We live on 14th cross, and our only connecting road is 8th Main road, which is dug up on both sides. When it rains, the road is flooded or becomes slushy. It becomes next to impossible to get an auto or taxi to attend to emergency cases. To add to that, no work has been going on for the past 20 days or so," says Dr Gummaraju

Residents say that over the last six months, many contractors carrying out the work have been changed, but it is nowhere near completion. Pedestrians and two-wheeler riders have been slipping and falling on the road. There have been instances of cars falling into the dug-up trenches after rain.

Although BWSSB started the work with the promise of better water connections, the water supply has further worsened.

"Before the pipe-laying work began, we rarely had to use a borewell pump for daily requirements. Now, on days with no Cauvery water supply, our bore well pump is running throughout the day," said Arun Kumar Nainpally, a senior citizen living in Malleswaram.

Red Line Metro plan sent back for review

The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has directed the Karnataka government to reassess the estimated cost of the proposed Hebbal–Sarjapur Metro (Red Line) despite state cabinet approval in December 2024. The 36.59 km corridor, with 28 stations (11 underground and 17 elevated), was estimated at ₹28,405 crore — about ₹776.3 crore per km. The Centre, which holds a 50% equity stake in Namma Metro, has returned the Detailed Project Report (DPR), directing that an independent consultant review the figures. BMRCL sources said the cost reassessment is under way with external advisers.

The project requires 161.65 acres of land, including 55.69 acres of private land near Sarjapur Circle earmarked for a depot. Land acquisition alone is expected to cost around ₹8,080 crore, with ₹1,224 crore for private holdings. The line will pass through busy hubs such as Sarjapur, Doddakannelli, Bellandur Gate, Iblur, Dairy Circle, NIMHANS, KR Circle, Palace Guttahalli, Veterinary College, Ganganagar, and Hebbal. About 836 properties — including 314 residential, 37 commercial, and 63 industrial buildings — are likely to be affected. The BMRCL has issued preliminary notifications, with exact details to be finalized after further assessment. Officials note that the Red Line will ease congestion in Bengaluru's eastern and central parts areas by linking residential belts with employment hubs. However, rising costs and delayed approvals could push back the project timeline. — BMB

Bhoganahalli–Panathur road widening gets push

Bengaluru East Corporation Commissioner DS Ramesh has directed officials to expedite the widening of the critical stretch from Bhoganahalli junction to the Panathur railway track, a vital connector between Balagere Outer Ring Road and the Varthur–Gunjur main road. At present, the road is a narrow bottleneck, causing daily traffic jams, and is now being expanded to a 12-meter width. Ramesh revealed that of 55 identified properties, 5 are government-owned and 45 are privately held, with most already cleared. Only 8 remained pending due to compensation disputes, but landowners have now agreed to relinquish them. He instructed officials to hasten land acquisition, resolve compensation via direct purchase, and ensure the project's swift completion to ease traffic congestion. — BMB

Historic KR Market faces cleanliness crisis

Every day, Bengaluru's bustling KR Market generates nearly 70 tonnes of waste, but keeping the historic hub clean remains a major challenge. During an inspection visit on Saturday, GBA Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao directed officials to draw up a comprehensive master plan for scientific waste disposal and around-the-clock cleanliness. He ordered bins at every stall, penalties for littering and encroachment, and immediate repairs to broken granite steps, leaky roof sheets, and clogged drains that trouble both vendors and visitors. With 1,288 shops inside the market, Rao also stressed the need to recover pending dues from tenants who have not paid rent, with some cases still pending in court. Meanwhile, Central Commissioner Rajendra Cholan reprimanded officials for poor coordination, reminding them not to shirk responsibility, but to work together to restore KR Market's dignity — both as a trade hub and a civic space. — BMB

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Pavement hijacked

RT Nagar

The footpath opposite Florence Public School park in RT Nagar has been encroached upon by garages with three-car roofing — a clear call for BBMP's attention.

Unsafe path

Kadubeesanahalli

The damaged pavement on Kadubeesanahalli–Doddakannelli (Gear School) Road poses a risk to children from three nearby schools who frequently use the footpath.

Drain dump

Austin Town

In Austin Town, an open stormwater drain has become a dumping ground for rubbish, demanding urgent civic action.

Contractors fined for lack of safety measures

In Bengaluru, two contractors, JMC Construction and Ocean Construction, were fined ₹2 lakh each for failing to implement safety measures during ongoing white topping road works. B-Style Technical Director Dr BS Prahlad ordered them to complete safety arrangements within two days.

The directive followed an inspection by the Chief Secretary along Outer Ring Road and Panathur Road, where barricades, warning boards, and other measures were missing, endangering pedestrians and motorists. Authorities also directed that white topping work be expedited and completed by November-end.

Traffic police joint commissioners stressed that no alternative routes should be provided for the stretches under white topping until the work is fully completed. **BMB**

B.Ed fee structure overhaul after 30 years

For the first time in three decades, the Karnataka government has decided to revise the fee structure for Bachelor of Education (B.Ed) colleges, following repeated complaints of institutions overcharging students.

A special committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Higher Education Department's Principal Secretary, with members including the Finance Department's Principal Secretary, Physical Director R Srikanth of First Grade College, Associate Professor KS Suma of VHD Home Science College, Principal NDS Pratima of Malleswaram Degree College, and the Director of Collegiate Education as member-secretary.

Karnataka currently has 325 B.Ed colleges—government, aided, and private—where fees are fixed at ₹1,000 in government colleges, ₹6,000 in aided, and ₹10,000 in private institutions. In contrast, states like Kerala and Andhra Pradesh charge between ₹35,000 and ₹50,000 for B.Ed admissions.

Private institutions in Karnataka have long demanded a revision, arguing that operational expenses cannot be met within existing limits.

The government has received proposals to increase management quota fees to ₹13,000 in aided colleges and ₹35,000 in private colleges.

Meanwhile, complaints persist of colleges collecting excess fees, granting irregular admissions, and permitting students to take exams without attending classes, prompting universities to initiate action against erring institutions. **BMB**

Constable hiring to begin after long delay

Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara has announced that the long-pending recruitment of police constables will begin soon, providing much-needed relief to job aspirants.

Speaking after a review meeting with senior officers on Friday, he revealed that the state currently has nearly 15,000 vacant constable posts across units such as the Karnataka State Reserve Police (KSRP), Civil Police, and Armed Reserve.

Recruitment for 545 Police Sub-Inspector (PSI) posts has already been completed, with selected candidates undergoing training. Appointment orders have also been issued for 398 of the 402 pending PSI posts.

The minister said the meeting reviewed key law and order concerns, including growing rowdyism, crimes against women, and ongoing investigations into bank robberies.

He noted that conviction rates in atrocities cases against Scheduled Castes and Tribes have dropped to 10% compared to previous years, and corrective measures are under discussion. He further stressed strict action against errant officers, citing the suspension of 11 personnel, including an inspector, for drug mafia links. **BMB**

MORE ARRESTS, FEWER CONVICTIONS

JUSTICE DENIED TO WOMEN

Rising crimes against women across Karnataka expose systemic failures, with conviction rate collapsing to 0.2 percent despite thousands of arrests made statewide

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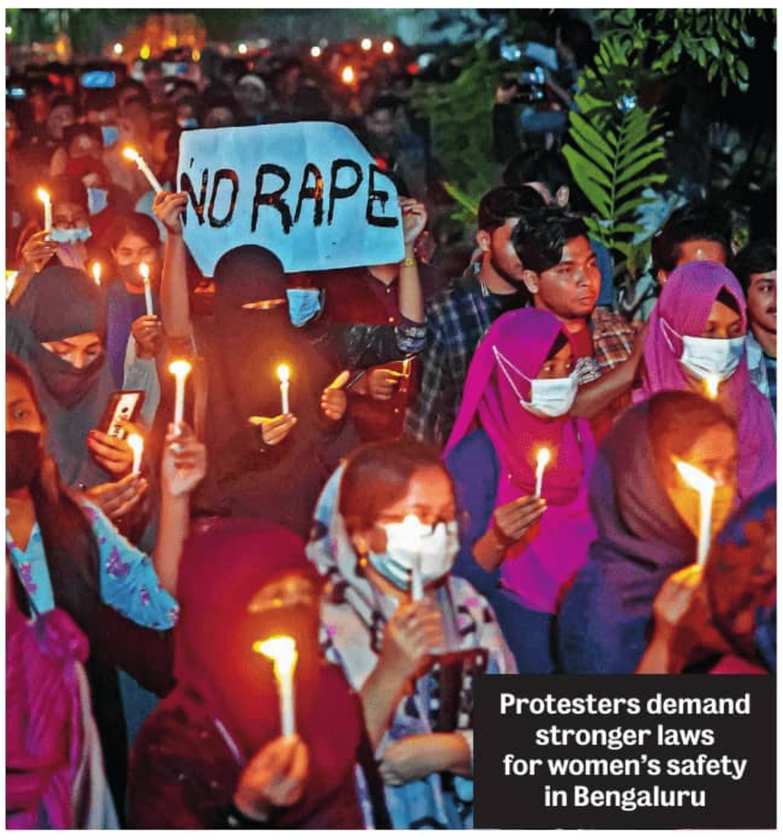
The numbers are staggering, the reality disturbing. Despite a robust legal framework for women's protection, Karnataka has recorded a rising trend of crimes against women over the last two-and-a-half years, but justice has remained elusive for most survivors. From January 2023 to July 2025, 31,503 cases of rape, sexual harassment, dowry deaths, and domestic cruelty were filed across the state. Yet only 66 convictions were secured—a conviction rate of barely 0.2%.



Protesters demand stronger laws for women's safety in Bengaluru

Rising year by year

The breakdown shows a consistent increase. In 2023, Karnataka reported 600 rapes, 6,489 cases of sexual harassment, 158 dowry deaths, and 2,959 incidents of dowry harassment. That year alone, sexual harassment accounted for 76% of all registered cases.

In 2024, rape complaints rose by 23% to 739, while sexual harassment cases remained high at 6,334. Dowry deaths stood at 112, and dowry harassment at 2,337. By July 2025, another 549 rapes, 3,450 sexual harassment cases, 70 dowry deaths, and 1,677 dowry harassment cases were added. Together, these categories show that sexual harassment alone forms nearly 53% of the total 31,503 cases.

"In 2023, for instance, 9,712 people were arrested for sexual harassment, 3,598 for domestic cruelty, and 5,610 under IPC Section 498A, among others

Arrests, not justice

According to the data, 41,989 arrests were made during this period—more than the total number of cases, as multiple individuals were booked per incident. In 2023, for instance, 9,712 people were arrested for sexual harassment, 3,598 for domestic cruelty, and 5,610 under IPC Section 498A, among others. However, the gap between arrests and convictions is gaping.

While 41,989 arrests suggest active policing, only 66 ended in conviction—an effective conviction rate of 0.16%. Meanwhile, 1,668 accused were acquitted, often due to lack of evidence or inconsistent victim testimony.

A senior lawyer said, "The data exposes two critical concerns. First, crimes against women are not only prevalent but persistently rising, particularly sexual harassment and domestic cruelty. Second, the justice delivery system is failing survivors. With only 0.2% convictions, the deterrent effect of law is virtually absent, emboldening perpetrators."

Activists argue that the majority of victims belong to poor, marginalised groups who lack financial means to sustain prolonged legal battles. Many cases are "settled" at the police station level due to the influence of powerful accused. Even when cases proceed, inconsistencies in statements, poor evidence collection, and procedural lapses weaken prosecutions.

Urgent reforms needed

State Women's Commission Chairperson Nagalakshmi Chaudhary has renewed her appeal to establish fast-track courts to handle such cases, ensuring survivors are not forced into years of waiting. She stresses that despite the lessons of the Nirbhaya case, crimes against women in Karnataka continue to be treated as routine, without systemic urgency.

"The data leaves little doubt: while laws exist on paper, justice remains out of reach for most women in Karnataka. Unless conviction rates improve through stronger policing, faster trials, and better victim support, the cycle of violence and impunity will only continue. The state's women are demanding not sympathy, but systemic accountability," said an activist.

Neighbours in need: K'taka to help Goa sort out its jumbo problem

Karnataka has assured Goa of technical expertise, trained personnel to tame rogue tusker Omkar damaging region's crops, forests, and farmland

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Officials stress cross-border collaboration, noting that elephants ignore political boundaries, demanding shared regional solutions for conservation and conflict resolution

Elephant Diplomacy

- Karnataka has historically shared kumki elephants and training expertise with neighbouring states facing rogue elephant challenges.
- Earlier this year, trained kumkis were formally handed over to Andhra Pradesh under an interstate agreement.
- Now, Goa has sought Karnataka's help to capture the rogue elephant Omkar — highlighting how elephants are becoming symbols of regional cooperation.

For Karnataka, sharing elephant expertise has become a form of soft power. From Andhra Pradesh to now Goa, state's forest department is positioning itself as a regional hub for knowledge and resources in managing human-elephant conflicts

When it comes to building bridges in South India, sometimes it's not politicians or trade deals but elephants that take the lead. The latest example is Goa, which has turned to Karnataka for help in taming a rogue tusker named Omkar, who has been wreaking havoc in its forests and farmlands.

Goa's Forest Minister Vishwajit Rane met his Karnataka counterpart, Forest and Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre, on Saturday to request trained kumki elephants and expert personnel to capture the tusker. With nearly 60 percent of Goa under forest cover but little history of elephant trouble, the state has suddenly found itself grappling with a new challenge. "The rogue elephant has begun damaging crops, and we need trained elephants and specialists to manage the situation," Khandre said at a joint press conference after the meeting.

Khandre, however, clarified that while Karnataka would extend technical support, it would not part with its kumkis. "We will send trained personnel and expert advice after Vijayadashami, but the kumki elephants themselves will not be dispatched. They are crucial for our own operations, especially during Dasara," he explained. Karnataka, long recognised for its expertise in elephant capture and management, remains a sought-after partner for neighbouring states facing human-elephant conflict.

This is not the first instance of Karnataka's "elephant diplomacy." Earlier this year, the state formally handed over trained kumkis to Andhra Pradesh. The ceremonial handover at Vidhana Soudha saw Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar present the elephants to Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Forest Minister Pawan Kalyan. The exchange was part of an interstate agreement signed during the International Conference on Human-Elephant Conflict held in Bengaluru, aimed at strengthening ties and addressing the growing conflict along state borders.

Officials emphasised that such collaboration is vital for both conservation and development. "Neighbouring states must collaborate generously. Elephants do not recognise political boundaries, so our solutions must cross borders. Karnataka's forest teams have also worked with Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh, sharing best practices and hosting international conferences on human-elephant conflicts," said a senior official.

For Karnataka, sharing elephant expertise has become a form of soft power. From Andhra Pradesh to now Goa, the state's forest department is positioning itself as a regional hub for knowledge and resources in managing human-elephant conflicts. Whether it is taming a rogue tusker in Goa or training mahouts in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka's elephants are quietly strengthening interstate relations, proving that diplomacy in South India sometimes walks on four legs.

Service fees hiked at 14 temples

The Muzrai Department has revised service fees across 14 major temples under the Religious Endowment wing, effective October 1. This marks the first revision in five years, with fees for rituals such as abhisheka and archane hiked by 5–10%, and in some cases up to 15%. The changes were approved after review by Agama scholars and temple management boards. Muzrai Commissioner MV Venkatesh clarified that only temples which submitted proposals were included, ensuring devotees are not overburdened while temples meet rising costs. Minister Ramalinga Reddy emphasized the decision was taken by temple boards, not the government. Prominent temples affected include Kukke Subrahmanya, Mahalingeshwara in Puttur, Southadka Mahaganapati, Mandarthi Durga Parameshwari, and Melukote Cheluvanarayanaswamy. At Kukke Subrahmanya, for example, the Ashlesha Pooja fee has been raised from ₹400 to ₹500, the first increase since 2010. Officials justified the revision citing higher expenses for ritual materials and daily operations. — BMB

State to launch Caste Census from Monday

Despite opposition from several cabinet ministers, objections from major community groups, and confusion over the inclusion of Hindu sub-castes with Christian names, the Karnataka government has decided to proceed with the Social and Educational Survey (Caste Census). The exercise will be conducted by the Backward Classes Commission between September 22 and October 7. Enumerators will visit every household across the state during this period. Citizens have been advised to keep ready the model questionnaire, containing 50–60 questions, and provide accurate details when approached. District Commissioners and Zilla Panchayat CEOs have trained enumerators through video conferences, while awareness campaigns are underway. The government has confirmed that house-to-house visits will begin simultaneously from September 22. — BMB

Dasara elephants rule social media, fans warned against trespass

From Abhimanyu's majestic stride to Arjuna's timeless charm, Dasara elephants dominate social media. Yet, forest officials stress: admiration is welcome online, but trespassing into elephant quarters risks fines and legal trouble

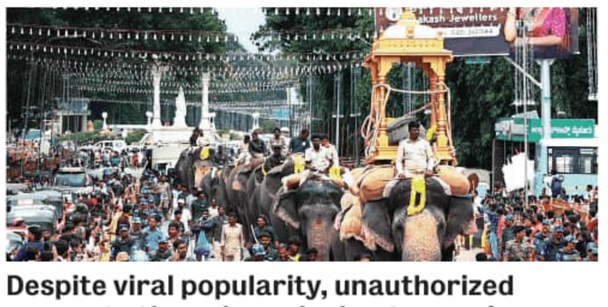
Mysuru is gearing up for Navaratri, but the real stars of the show are already stealing the spotlight online. This year's Dasara elephants—Captain Abhimanyu, Bhima, and the legendary Arjuna—have taken over social media feeds, their reels and videos clocking millions of views even before festivities begin.

Abhimanyu's disciplined strides, Bhima's daring rescues, and Arjuna's timeless charm as the golden howdah bearer have turned these pachyderms into internet sensations. Their majestic walks on palace grounds, along with glimpses of feeding rituals, playful antics, and training sessions, are drawing unprecedented online attention. Other elephants—Dhananjaya, Ekalavya, Mahendra, Prashanth, Kanjan, Lakshmi, and Kaveri—too are joining the digital darbar, making this year's Dasara a celebration of elephant grandeur both offline and online, blending centuries-old tradition with modern digital adoration.

But with fame comes caution. A young woman who sneaked into the palace elephant camp at night to film reels now faces legal trouble. Forest officials have confirmed that she violated wildlife protection laws by entering a restricted zone. Authorities are tracking her to impose fines and issue a stern warning, highlighting the risks of prioritising viral fame over safety and law.

Deputy Chief Conservator of Forests Prabhugowda clarified that access to the elephants is strictly restricted to mahouts, their families, and accredited media. "Any unauthorized attempt to film or photograph these elephants is prohibited," he said. The warning follows earlier cases where three individuals were fined ₹1,000 each for attempting similar close encounters despite repeated instructions.

Officials stressed that while the elephants are admired worldwide, safety of both animals and people is paramount. Close access poses risks—not just of disturbing the elephants, but also of endangering lives, since even a minor disturbance can cause unpredictable reactions in these giant animals. As Mysuru prepares for the grandeur of Dasara, forest officials are urging fans to celebrate responsibly. The elephants may rule social media, but the rules remain clear: admiration from afar is safe and sweet, while trespassing into their quarters can quickly turn online fame into a costly legal headache. — BMB

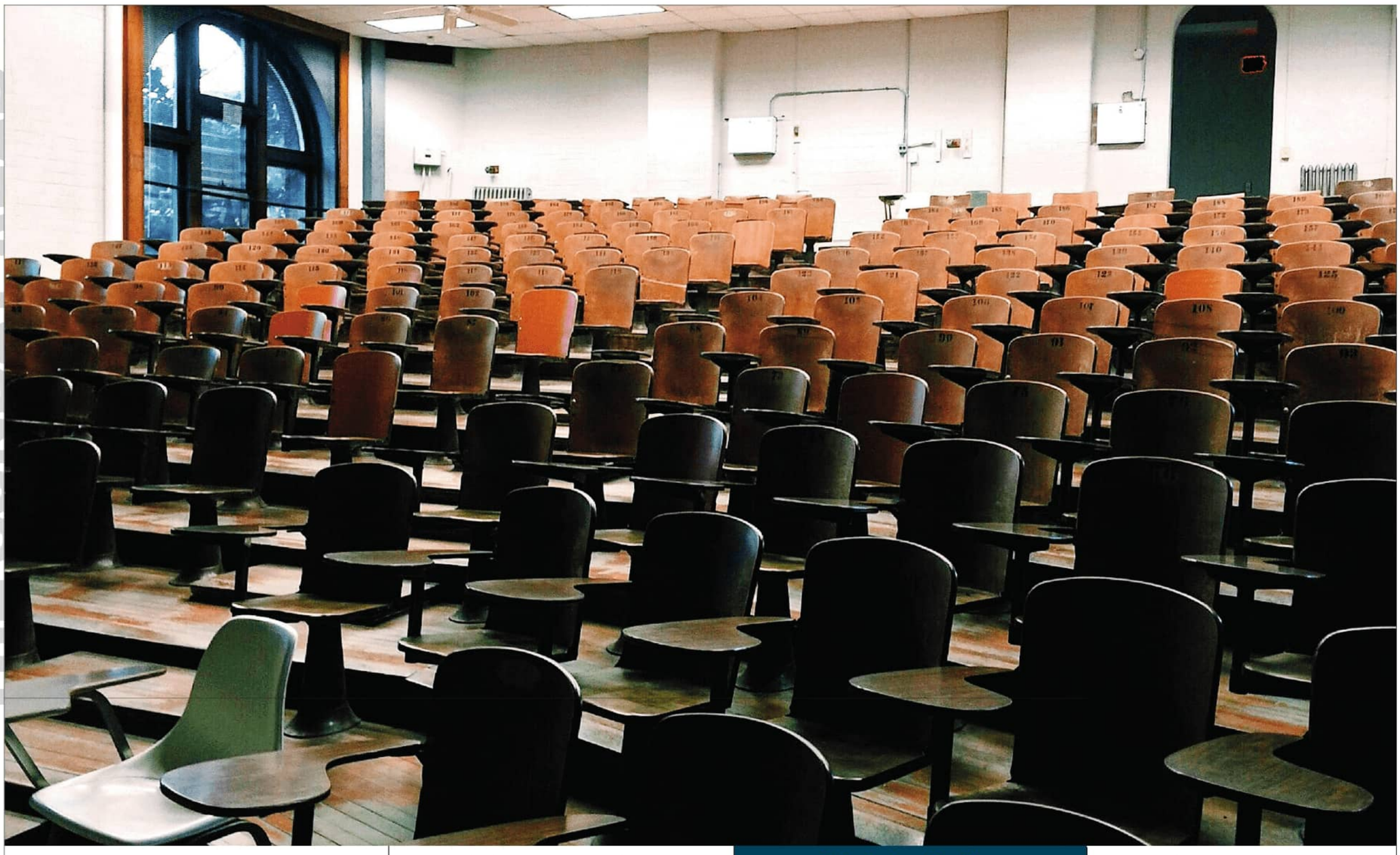


Despite viral popularity, unauthorized access to the palace elephant camp is strictly prohibited, with strict penalties for reckless photography attempts

7,000 fixed, but 5,000 potholes linger

Bengaluru's roads continue to test commuters' patience as 7,000 potholes have been patched, but nearly 5,000 still remain across the city. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said the government is working on a war footing to address the backlog, attributing the surge in damages to heavy rains. He has sought a detailed report from the Police Commissioner on pothole-related issues and urged citizens to use complaint platforms to flag road damage for faster redressal. "Every day feels like a gamble — you either hit a pothole or narrowly escape one. Fixing half the problem is not enough," said Jayanagar resident Ramesh Gowda. — BMB

SUNDAY READ



Cut class

UG admissions crash by 45% in Karnataka's state universities; student numbers drop from 4.50 lakh in 2023-24 to 2.47 lakh in 2025-26

Sridhar.Vivan@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Once the pride of Karnataka's higher education system, state-run universities attracted students not only from across the state but also from neighbouring regions and even abroad. Institutions in Mysuru, Bengaluru, and Mangaluru were considered top choices for undergraduate education, offering affordable degrees and academic prestige. However, that golden era is fading fast. In the last two years alone, undergraduate admissions in government universities have dropped sharply by 45%, with student numbers plunging from 4,50,957 in 2023-24 to just 2,47,534 in 2025-26.

Data from the Higher Education Department shows a steady decline despite multiple deadline extensions for admissions. While the fall was modest in 2024-25, with 4,25,029 students (a 6% drop compared to the previous year), the following academic year saw a steep fall, indicating a structural problem rather than a temporary dip. Professors are now grappling with empty classrooms, while administrators warn that several traditional courses may become unsustainable.

Karnataka's 32 public universities collectively enroll 25.74 lakh students across all levels. Of these, 22.68 lakh (88%) are undergraduates, 2.97 lakh (11.5%) are postgraduates, and only 7,716 (0.5%) are Ph D scholars. This imbalance underscores the dominance of undergraduate education, but the falling intake raises concerns about the future academic pipeline.

A closer look at university-wise performance shows that even once-dominant institutions are feeling the pinch. Rani Channamma University leads with 33,341 students in 2024-25, down from 34,108 the previous year. University of Mysore enrolled 25,870 students, Bengaluru City University 16,789, Mangalore University 15,816, and Bangalore University 13,601. Together, these five universities account for nearly 42% of all UG admissions, yet they have not escaped the downward trend.

At the lower end, institutions such as Karnataka Samskrit University, Nrupathunga University, Karnataka Janapada Vishwavidyalaya, and Dr Gangubhai Hangal Music and Performing Arts University have enrollments in only two or three digits. Many departments now have fewer students than faculty, highlighting the crisis.

Experts cite multiple reasons for the decline. "Many students from poor and middle-class families, who previously chose government universities, are now lured by private institutions offering modern, industry-linked courses and better placements. Around 30–35% of students are shifting to private universities, while 25–30% choose professional programs like engineering, medicine, and paramedical studies over traditional degrees. Delays in evaluation cycles and slow result declarations discourage 15–20% of students. Inadequate infrastructure, including outdated labs and insufficient hostels, affects 10–15%," said a former vice-chancellor.

Students shift to private, professional, and vocational programs as government universities struggle with outdated infrastructure, slow evaluations, and declining appeal

Educationists warn of long-term implications. Unless government universities overhaul curricula to match job markets, speed up evaluation systems, and invest in infrastructure, the sector risks further erosion. Former Bangalore University Vice-Chancellor Prof KR Venugopal noted, "Curricula must align with employment demands, and awareness of facilities in government universities must improve. Only then can admissions recover."

The sharp 45% decline in just two years is not merely statistical but a signal of growing structural imbalance in Karnataka's higher education landscape, calling for urgent corrective measures.

Reasons for Decline

30–35% Students shift to private universities for placements

25–30% Preference for professional/ vocational courses

15–20% Frustration due to delayed results

10–15% Poor infrastructure

Admission Decline (UG, Government Universities)

2023–24: **4,50,957** students (100%)

2024–25: **4,25,029** students (6% drop)

2025–26: **2,47,534** students (45% drop in two years)

Enrollments in 32 Public Universities (2025–26)

UG: **22.68** lakh (88%)

PG: **2.97** lakh (11.5%)

Ph.D.: **7,716** (0.5%)

Total: **25.74** lakh

Drop in Major Universities (2024–25 UG Admissions)

Rani Channamma University: 33,341 (13.5%)

University of Mysore: 25,870 (10.5%)

Bengaluru City University: 16,789 (6.7%)

Mangalore University: 15,816 (6.4%)

Bangalore University: 13,601 (5.5%)

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

LACEY RAIN BLOOMS

Our reader shares a delicate glimpse of lacy mushrooms blooming in the backyard after overnight rains, their intricate beauty rivalling blossoms. Emerging from the damp earth, they stand as fleeting sculptures of nature reminding us how wonder often appears in the most unexpected corners of daily life.

The picture was clicked by reader **P Suryanarayana**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

Migratory birds flock to Bidaraguppe Lake amid alarming pollution threat

Bird lovers rejoice at the seasonal spectacle, but unchecked industrial waste and sewage pollution cast a dark shadow over Bidaraguppe Lake

Bidaraguppe Lake hosts thousands of migratory birds, enchanting nature lovers. Yet, severe pollution from industries and sewage threatens its ecology

The arrival of migratory birds at Bidaraguppe Lake in Anekal taluk has sparked excitement among bird lovers. Their lively chirping and graceful flights are drawing photographers and passersby alike, creating a rare spectacle of natural beauty. However, worsening pollution at the lake threatens to overshadow this joy and poses a serious hurdle for birdwatching enthusiasts.

Situated close to the Tamil Nadu border, Bidaraguppe Lake is one of the largest in the taluk and a seasonal refuge for thousands of winged visitors. Each year, migratory birds turn the lake into a hotspot for nature enthusiasts. This season too, the sight has been breathtaking. Yet, behind the beauty lies a growing concern that contamination may drastically reduce bird arrivals in the years to come. The root cause is unchecked industrialisation in and around Anekal. Once a quiet belt, the region is now a hub of industries and large companies. Chemical waste from factories, combined with untreated sewage from expanding residential areas, flows directly into the lake. To make matters worse, polluted water from Muthanallur Lake—already tainted by effluents from Jigani, Bommasandra Industrial Area, Electronic City, and Chandapura—also drains into Bidaraguppe.

The impact is starkly visible. The lake water has turned murky, foul odours rise constantly, and trees along the banks have begun to wither. Even commuters passing by are forced to cover their noses to escape the stench. Environmentalists warn this situation endangers the health of migratory birds. "If the contamination continues, the birds may stop coming altogether. But if the lake is revived, even more species could arrive every year," said Pradeep, a nature lover.

Local leaders have echoed these concerns. Rajesh, former president of the Bidaraguppe Gram Panchayat, has urged the taluk administration to step in and restore the lake before it loses its ecological value. Despite repeated appeals to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board and other departments, little has moved on the ground.

While several lakes in Anekal have been rejuvenated under corporate social responsibility (CSR) projects, Bidaraguppe, along with Muthanallur and Jigani lakes, continues to wait for attention. Until authorities act decisively, the fragile ecological balance of the region remains under threat. For now, the birds still come—but unless the lake is revived, the joy of their arrival may soon be only a memory. **— BMB**

Environmentalists warn continued contamination may drive migratory birds away, while restoration could attract even more species in future

DID YOU KNOW?

Scientists have uncovered prehistoric insects preserved in amber for the first time in South America, offering a rare glimpse into Earth's ancient ecosystems. The discovery, made at a sandstone quarry in Ecuador, dates back 112 million years, when flowering plants were just beginning to diversify. Until now, most amber deposits from the past 130 million years were found in the Northern Hemisphere, making this find in the Gondwana region particularly significant. The amber revealed beetles, flies, ants, wasps, pollen, and leaves, capturing a vivid snapshot of Cretaceous-era biodiversity. According to researchers, the forest of that time was vastly different from today's Amazon, dominated by ferns, conifers, and the Monkey Puzzle Tree, now absent from the region. Geologists and miners had long known of amber at the Genoveva quarry, but scientists began systematic study only a decade ago. The findings highlight how insects played a crucial role in the early evolution of flowering plants. Experts describe amber as "little windows into the past," preserving tiny details that shaped one of nature's most successful partnerships—plants and insects. **— AP**

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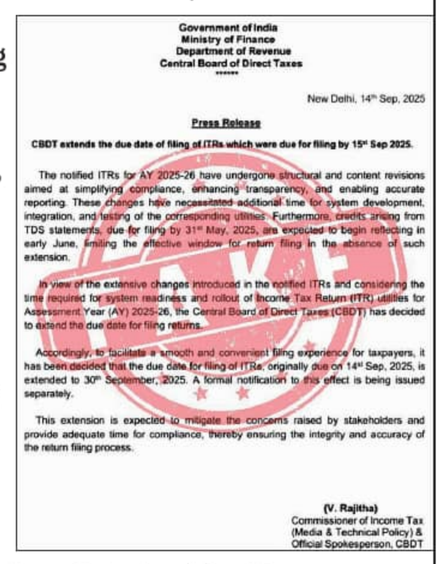
ITR filing last date FY 24-25: Has income tax return filing deadline been further extended to September 30, 2025?

Claim: A viral notice circulating online claimed that the Income Tax Return (ITR) filing deadline for FY 2024–25 had been extended from September 15, 2025 to September 30, 2025, causing confusion among taxpayers rushing to meet compliance requirements.



Government of India
Ministry of Finance
Department of Revenue
Central Board of Direct Taxes

New Delhi, 14th Sep, 2025

Press Release

CBDT extends the due date of filing of ITRs which were due for filing by 15th Sep 2025.

The notified ITRs for AY 2025-26 have undergone structural and content revisions aimed at simplifying compliance, enhancing transparency, and enabling accurate reporting. These changes have necessitated additional time for system development, integration, and testing of the corresponding utilities. Furthermore, credits arising from TDS statements, due for filing by 31st May, 2025, are expected to begin reflecting in early June, limiting the effective window for return filing in the absence of such extension.

In view of the extensive changes introduced in the notified ITRs and considering the time required for system readiness and rollout of Income Tax Return (ITR) utilities for Assessment Year (AY) 2025-26, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has decided to extend the due date for filing returns.

Accordingly, to facilitate a smooth and convenient filing experience for taxpayers, it has been decided that the due date for filing of ITRs, originally due on 14th Sep, 2025, is extended to 30th September, 2025. A formal notification to this effect is being issued separately.

This extension is expected to mitigate the concerns raised by stakeholders and provide adequate time for compliance, thereby ensuring the integrity and accuracy of the return filing process.

(V. Rajitha)
Commissioner of Income Tax
(Media & Technical Policy) &
Official Spokesperson, CBDT

The Fact: The Income Tax Department clarified that the ITR filing deadline was not extended beyond September 15, 2025. The department labelled the circulated message fake and advised taxpayers to rely only on official updates from @IncomeTaxIndia for authentic information.

With the last date of filing the Income Tax Return (ITR) today, i.e., September 15, 2025, taxpayers across the country are in a rush to complete the process. Confusion still persists, however, after a notice circulated online on Sunday claimed that the Ministry of Finance had issued a press release extending the filing deadline to September 30, 2025.

The Income Tax Department quickly denied this. Officials said the message was fake and confirmed the due date remained September 15. In a statement, the department said: "A fake news article is in circulation stating that the due date of filing ITRs (originally due on 31.07.2025, and extended to 15.09.2025) has been further extended to 30.09.2025. The due date for filing ITRs remains 15.09.2025. Taxpayers are advised to rely only on official @IncomeTaxIndia updates. To assist taxpayers for ITR filing, tax payment and other related services, our help desk is functioning on a 24x7 basis."

Although this clarification ended rumours, it disappointed many hoping for more time. Importantly, ITRs can still be filed after September 15, but only with penalties and loss of certain benefits.

As of September 15, 2025, 8.30 am (latest figures updated September 13), out of 13.43 crore registered taxpayers, 6.30 crore had already filed. Of these, 5.80 crore ITRs were verified, and 3.89 crore processed. These figures show the scale of activity but also the large number yet to file.

Many chartered accountants (CAs) urged the Finance Minister to extend the deadline, citing system glitches. CA Ashish Niraj of ASN & Company said: "We were facing issues downloading the AIS during peak hours, so we had to work at night. Clients also faced tax payment issues." He added that AIS is only a suggestive tool; taxpayers can obtain data from brokers, KFintech, CAMS, or banks, and therefore should not wait for extensions. For those missing the deadline, belated returns can be filed until December 31, 2025, with a penalty of ₹5,000. If income is below ₹5 lakh, the fee is capped at ₹1,000. Delays also attract 1% monthly interest on pending tax. Missing even the belated deadline could lead to prosecution.

In short, the deadline stands firm: September 15, 2025. Taxpayers are urged to act promptly and ignore fake notices. **— ET Online**

Police go on goon check

Nightly raids catch rowdies sheeters by surprise

INFOCUS CRIME FILE

Bengaluru police carried out raids across the city on Friday night, targeting criminal elements and rowdy individuals to enhance public safety and maintain law and order. Officials checked 1,478 houses of known rowdy sheeters as part of the operation. Led by the Deputy Commissioners of Police (DCPs) from various divisions, the raids aimed to identify and take action against offenders, who had previously been evading the law.

During the operation, a total of 165 rowdy individuals and criminal elements were checked. Police located three rowdies, who had been out of sight, seven individuals with pending warrants, and three proximity offenders. In total, 124 registered cases were verified, including 10 cases against drug users.

Officials said the operation was part of a proactive approach to disrupt criminal networks, increase accountability, and deter crime. The identification of rowdies, warrant holders, and hidden offenders is expected to enhance security in the city and prevent drug-related activities.The police have confirmed that verification and legal proceedings against the identified individuals are underway. Continuous surveillance and intelligence-led operations will continue in risk-prone areas.

Man attempts to murder wife

A man was arrested for allegedly trying to kill his wife by slitting her throat with a knife on Thursday around 12.30 pm in Byadarahalli police station limits. The victim, who works as a patient care taker in a private hospital, underwent surgery and is now reported to be out of danger. The couple had been living separately for the past two years. The victim had left her two children at her parents' home and was staying in a rented house in Vidyamananagar due to harassment from her husband, identified as Prasanna. The accused, who runs a water tank cleaning business, has a history of alcohol abuse and had frequently fought with his wife. He had also uploaded, edited and morphed photos of her on social media.

2 sentenced to 10 years for drug peddling

A Bengaluru court has sentenced two men to 10 years in jail for selling marijuana. The two were caught with over 114 kg of the drug in BTM 1st Phase.

The case is from April 11, 2021, when police arrested the men based on a tip-off. During questioning, both admitted that they were selling marijuana to make money. Police seized 114 kg 115 grams of marijuana from them.

Two-wheelers thieves arrested

The Kengeri Police have arrested two men for stealing four two-wheelers worth around ₹3 lakh.

The complaint was filed by a man from Nagadevanahalli, whose two-wheeler went missing from outside his home on August 11. On September 9, the police arrested a man and a minor near Eshto Basavanna Circle after receiving information from informants. During questioning, both confessed to stealing two-wheelers in Kengeri, Soladevanahalli, and Jnanabharathi police station areas.

The police seized a total of four stolen two-wheelers, including two parked in an empty lot next to RR Nagar Hospital.

The arrested man was produced before the court on September 10, which remanded him to judicial custody. The minor was explained the situation and sent home with his parents.

Guest lecturer files harassment complaint against 5 colleagues

A 30-year-old woman, who has been a guest lecturer in Ramanagara for a few years, has filed a police complaint accusing five colleagues of harassment, threats, and sexual misconduct. The complaint was submitted on September 8 at the Jnanabharathi police station. Following her complaint, an FIR was registered against the five guest lecturers.

According to the complaint, the victim, who lives in Melkanda, alleged that Swaroop Kumar and Ramanjaneya BK had been mentally torturing her and spreading false information. She said she had previously filed a complaint against them for similar behavior.

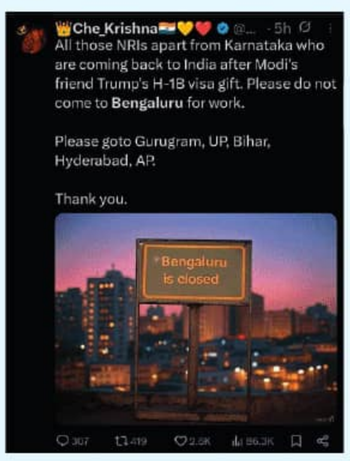
The victim alleged that the accused later removed her from her position as a guest lecturer. She said that while Kumar was recording a video of her, she snatched the phone and discovered that he had made sexually explicit and offensive remarks. When she confronted him, he reportedly verbally abused her and threatened her, saying she must comply with their demands or face kidnapping and physical harm.

The complaint also names other individuals, Rangaswamy, K Jagannath, and Shivaram, all guest lecturers in the same department. An FIR has been registered, and the case has been transferred to the Aizur police station in Ramanagara, as the incident took place there, the police said. According to sources after the video went viral, a committee meeting was held on Saturday and the guest lecturers were suspended.

—BMB

SOCIALTATTLE

What's tweeting
A X-user has got anxious about the H-1B visa move. They have a grim advice for those coming back to India: Try other cities.



Hundreds of residents from several housing societies in the Varthur area gathered in a peaceful protest to demand immediate repairs for the road. An image shared on X shows frustrated residents, including children and senior citizens, holding placards about the dangerous conditions.

Bangalore Mirror tagged
A commuter has caught on camera two bike-riders without helmet and with their burqa dangerously close to the wheel. Though how BM can help in this scenario is unclear.

One piece of good news from AECS Layout where residents are happy with official action against encroachment.

INBRIEF

Talk on suicide prevention

The Department of Mental Health Education, with Psychiatric Social Work and Clinical Psychopharmacology & Neurotoxicology, NIMHANS, in collaboration with the Department of Horticulture, Government of Karnataka, hosted Community Connect at Lalbagh Botanical Garden on Saturday as part of World Suicide Prevention Month. With the theme 'Choose Life, Choose Hope – Let's Talk About Suicide Prevention,' the session engaged nearly 55 participants in open and meaningful conversations on mental health, resilience, and support systems. The session was led by Dr. Prabha S Chandra, senior professor of psychiatry, NIMHANS, and highlighted key aspects of suicide prevention, including myths about suicide and promoting honest conversations, listening with empathy, and supporting those experiencing suicidal thoughts and emphasised that suicide attempts are no longer a crime in India, reducing stigma and encouraging help-seeking. BMB

Aland charges to be probed

The Karnataka government has announced that the 'Vote Chori' allegations in connection with the Aland Assembly segment raised by the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, will be probed by the Special Investigation Team (SIT).
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah made a statement in this regard while answering a question in this regard at Gadag city on Saturday.
"Rahul Gandhi has pointed out that about 6,000 names of voters were deleted in the Aland constituency, and this is true. An SIT probe will be conducted into the voter fraud case in Aland," Siddaramaiah said, answering a question on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's allegations regarding voter fraud.

Spotted deer killing: 1 more accused held

The Karnataka Forest Department has arrested another accused in connection with the wildlife crime related to the killing of a large number of spotted deer registered in the Kaggalipur forest Range in June. The arrested accused is Dominic Raj, a resident of Krishnadoddi village, Jigani hobli in Anekal taluk. So far, 4 arrests have been made in this case, and the Forest Department has intensified the investigation. The investigation is being carried out by the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Bangalore South, who is the investigating officer. BMB

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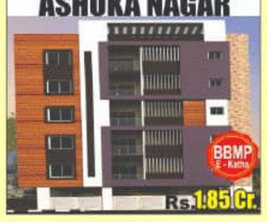

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CM dissatisfied with state of roads, gives 1 month deadline for action

In a high-level meeting held at the Krishna Home Office under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, key discussions took place regarding the poor condition of Bengaluru's roads and the overall traffic management.

The Chief Minister voiced strong dissatisfaction towards the authorities, stating that citizens are severely troubled by pothole-ridden roads and questioned why urgent measures haven't been taken yet. "Can't you see the daily suffering of the public?" he asked sharply.

The Chief Minister demanded accountability, questioning what the ward engineers and chief engineers have been doing. He granted a grace period of one month for the authorities to act decisively. Strict measures must be implemented to close all potholes and make the roads traffic-worthy. Failure to maintain the roads appropriately will result in severe action against negligent officials, he warned.

He emphasised that grants provided should be used for delivering high-quality and scientifically executed works, without any collusion with contractors. He questioned why road works are often initiated during the monsoon instead of being completed before the rains.

The newly appointed Commissioner of the Greater Bengaluru Authority was directed to conduct field visits and maintain active oversight.

The Chief Minister also expressed serious displeasure over the lack of coordination between various agencies, including BDA, BMRCL, and the Water Board. A one-month deadline has been set to close all potholes and ensure all roads are made traffic-ready. He instructed all departments to work in coordination to achieve this goal.

Additionally, the Chief Commissioner has been tasked with holding weekly meetings with commissioners of all five zones and maintaining continuous communication.

If there is a shortage of funds, the Finance Department has been instructed to release necessary amounts on a priority basis. A reassessment of progress will be conducted after one month. **BMB**

Poor sleep hygiene is a seniors' problem too

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

which included both sub-threshold and clinical levels. Also, 67% of the senior citizens studied exhibited unhygienic sleep practices. According to researchers, several factors contributed to poor sleep hygiene, such as thinking, planning, or worrying in bed, going to bed stressed or angry, and taking daytime naps.

The study was conducted to determine the proportion of insomnia and sleep hygiene practices and associated factors among elderly people.

Over 90% reported co-morbidities such as diabetes and hypertension, and 28% reported substance use. Nearly 40% were suffering from paraesthesia of the lower limbs and urinary disturbances that were affecting their sleep at night.

The study also identified several other factors significantly associated with insomnia, including being female, separated or widowed, having co-morbidities, and experiencing night-time issues. However, in the majority of the cases (67.2%), insomnia was due to unhygienic sleep practices.

Experts say regular screening of the elderly and awareness regarding sleep hygiene practices are important.

"Regular screening of the elderly for insomnia during geriatric clinics, training of health workers to identify and refer individuals with sleep issues, and prompt diagnosis and treatment of non-communicable diseases that affect sleep are essential. Additionally, awareness should be created through health education regarding the importance of sleep hygiene practices. There is also a scope for qualitative studies to be conducted to understand the reasons for insomnia," researchers noted.

The study is published in the Journal of the College of Community Physicians of Sri Lanka.

No clear solutions to B'luru's traffic tangle yet

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

suggested by traffic officials, which had helped reduce traffic pressure. Several meetings were held with the stakeholders on this issue. The arrangement had also given some relief to commuters, who usually spend hours stuck in peak-hour traffic. However, citing productivity issues and the need for better collaboration, companies may now decide to call employees back to office on a regular basis.

Earlier Bengaluru Traffic Police advised IT firms on ORR to extend work from home, stagger timings and mid-week WFH option, as Whitefield, E-City, Hebbal face frequent snarls. Traffic police officials said they noticed the heaviest rush between 9 am and 10 am, so they suggested starting office timings earlier, around 7.30 am, to ease the load. Karthik Reddy told BM that plenty of public transport options are available near ORR, but many commuters still prefer cabs. "Often, people travel alone in these cabs, even though the vehicle could accommodate three more passengers. Low vehicle occupancy means that a large portion of the available road space is occupied by only one passenger, effectively wasting capacity and slowing down traffic flow," he said.

Officials added that if more employees opted for buses instead, it would significantly reduce congestion on the roads.

On social media, citizens have also expressed concern that no clear solutions have been put in place to tackle the problem. People worry that the return to office will bring back the same old frustration of endless waiting in traffic jams. A post on Reddit summed it up,"WFO Mandatory from 1st Oct prepares for traffic woes. A bunch of offices have announced Mandatory work from the office starting October 1st. They're tying this to performance and salary. Be prepared for the increase in traffic starting from 1st October. I'm not even sure if the Bengaluru Traffic Police has been informed about this change and increase in density of vehicles on the roads."

Traffic officials confirmed that they have not got any such information but they urged use of public transport.

According to Bengaluru Traffic Police data, vehicle entries into 26 major tech parks along Outer Ring Road rose by 45% in June compared to last year. The surge was particularly noticeable on a Wednesday, when nearly 1.2 lakh vehicles entered the area in a single day, up from about 82,000 in June 2024.

However Krishna Kumar Gowda, Vice President of the Greater Bengaluru IT and Companies Association (GBICA), said, "It is obvious that traffic congestion will increase, as nearly 70 to 80 percent of companies have already shifted from work-from-home to office. If more companies give such instructions, it will only increase the traffic congestion. We have observed that employees following hybrid models usually come to the office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. I suggest that IT companies encourage carpooling, while commuters should make greater use of public transport, bike taxis etc. The IT sector itself must also promote public transport. As for the government, it should increase the number of buses. If people are not using public transport, it is often because they do not find it comfortable or because proper bus facilities are lacking."

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I, Riyan Pasha, R/at No.66/4, ST. Joseph Layout, Sait Palya, Lingarajpuram, Bangalore-560084, have changed my name to Riyan Pasha Aslam, For All Purposes.

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HEALTH TIP: Roasted seeds are a perfect snack before bed as they are packed with magnesium, which will help keep your muscles relaxed

Walnuts contain melatonin, the hormone that will help your body to get a good sleep

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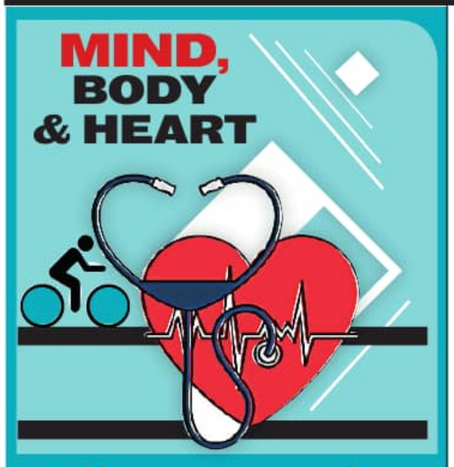


All you need to know about...

Severe nausea during pregnancy

Mental health risks
Women with excessive nausea and vomiting (hyperemesis gravidarum) during pregnancy may be at a 50 per cent high risk of mental health conditions such as post-partum psychosis, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder, according to a study.

Affects 3.6% pregnancies
Hyperemesis gravidarum (HG) affects up to 3.6 per cent of all pregnancies. HG is the most common cause of hospitalisation in the first trimester of pregnancy, and the majority of HG cases (but not all) resolve in the second trimester. Women with HG experience prolonged and severe nausea and vomiting, leading to dehydration and weight loss.

Raises risk of 13 conditions
In the study, published in The Lancet Obstetrics, Gynaecology, & Women's Health, UK researchers examined 24 neuropsychiatric and mental health-related outcomes reported within a year of diagnosis in 476,857 pregnant women.
Whilst previous research had shown that women with HG are at an increased risk of anxiety, depression, and PTSD, the new study found over 50 per cent increased risk in 13 conditions, including post-partum psychosis and post-traumatic stress disorder.
The risks were doubled for Wernicke's encephalopathy (a neurological condition due to vitamin B1 deficiency), refeeding syndrome (complications arising when food is introduced too quickly to someone who has been malnourished), eating disorders, and depression, particularly post-partum depression, which was 2.7 times more likely.

Far from normal
"Many pregnant women experience nausea and vomiting, but for women with HG, this occurs at a level which is far from 'normal' and as such it can be profoundly debilitating. Many of these conditions would warrant urgent referral to specialist services for urgent assessment and treatment to ensure the safety of mother and child," said Dr Hamilton Morrin, King's College London. —IANS

CELEBRATORY TASTE

Durga Puja special recipes you will love to recreate at home

GONDHORAJ BHETKI FRY

INGREDIENTS
- Bhetki fish fillets (or any white fish) 4
- Gondhoraj lemons, juiced 2–3
- Mustard oil 2 tablespoons
- Turmeric powder 1 teaspoon
- Red chili powder (optional) 1 teaspoon
- SaltTo taste
- Garlic, minced 2 cloves
- Ginger paste 1 tablespoon
- Fresh cilantro (for garnish) As required

METHOD
- Marinate fish fillets with Gondhoraj lemon juice, turmeric powder, red chili powder (if using), salt, garlic, and ginger paste for 30 minutes.
- Heat mustard oil in a pan and fry the marinated fish fillets until golden brown and cooked through.
- Garnish with fresh cilantro and serve hot with steamed rice.

CHINGRI CHOP

INGREDIENTS
- Prawns (peeled and chopped) 250 gm
- Onion (Medium onion, finely chopped) 1
- Garlic (minced) 2 cloves
- Ginger paste 1 tablespoon
- Cumin powder 1 teaspoon
- Coriander powder 1 teaspoon
- Turmeric powder ½ teaspoon
- Red chili powder (optional) ½ teaspoon
- Salt To taste
- lemon juice 1 tablespoon
- Egg (beaten) 1
- Breadcrumbs
- For coating
- Oil, For frying

METHOD
- Marinate prawns with cumin powder, coriander powder, turmeric powder, red chili powder (if using), and salt for 15–20 minutes.
- Mix chopped onion, garlic, and ginger paste with marinated prawns.
- Add beaten egg and mix well.
- Shape into cutlets and coat with breadcrumbs.
- Fry in hot oil until golden brown and crispy.
- Serve hot with mustard sauce or ketchup.

LUCHI AND CHOLAR DAL

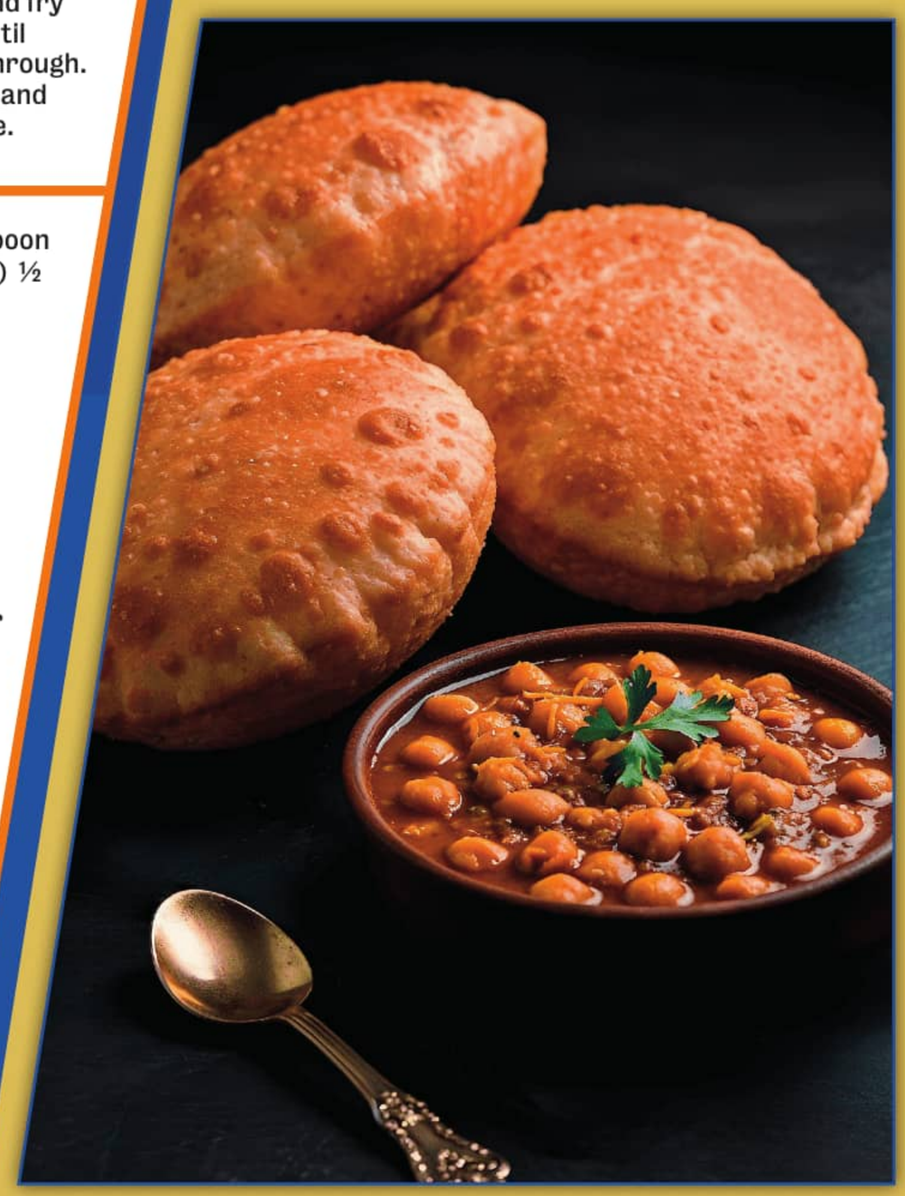
LUCHI (PURI)

INGREDIENTS
- All-purpose flour 2 cups
- Salt 1/2 teaspoon
- Sugar 1/4 teaspoon
- Lukewarm water 1/2 cup
- Ghee or oil (for frying) As needed

METHOD
- Mix flour, salt, and sugar.
- Gradually add lukewarm water and knead to form a smooth dough.
- Rest the dough for 30 minutes.
- Divide into small balls and roll out into thin circles.
- Fry in hot oil until puffed and golden.

CHOLAR DAL RECIPE:
INGREDIENTS
- Split Bengal gram (cholar dal) 1 cup
- Water 2 cups
- Mustard oil / Vegetable oil 1 tablespoon
- Onion (chopped) 1 small
- Tomato (chopped) 1 small
- Ginger paste 1 teaspoon
- Garlic paste 1 teaspoon
- Ground cumin 1 teaspoon
- Ground coriander 1 teaspoon
- Turmeric powder 1/2 teaspoon
- Red chili powder (optional) 1/2 teaspoon
- SaltTo taste
- Fresh cilantro (for garnish) As needed

METHOD
- Soak the cholar dal in water for 30 minutes. Drain and set aside.
- Heat oil in a pressure cooker or large pot. Add chopped onion and sauté until golden brown.
- Add ginger paste, garlic paste, cumin, coriander, turmeric, and chili powder (if using). Cook for 1 minute.
- Add chopped tomato and cook until softened.
- Add the soaked cholar dal, salt, and 2 cups of water. Pressure cook for 4–5 whistles or cook in a pot until the dal is tender.



Recipes by Rajeev Kumar, Executive Chef, Courtyard by Marriott Bengaluru Hebbal

 # Mohanlal honoured
Malayalam superstar Mohanlal to receive Dadasaheb Phalke Award for year 2023

An unequal world

Throwback to when Anushka expressed her views on gender disparity

It has been a long time since Anushka Sharma was last seen in a film, She was last seen in Zero with Shah Rukh Khan and Katrina Kaif. She was supposed to come back to movie with Chakda Express- biopic on Indian Woman fast bowler Jhulan Goswami.

But for now the film has been stuck. Being an actor- producer, Anushka has been very candid about the gender disparity that has been part of the business.

In an interview that she gave to Film Companion is 2015 she pointed out that longevity for actors and actresses are starkly different. She said, "Men can work as long as they want to. Even if they've aged, it's fine. They're still heroes and they're still superheroes and they're still amazing and cool and all of that, which is fine. And I have no problem with that. But why is it that women are only okay big till they are young? They're only desirable."

She further broke down the problem of how desirability is framed in the industry, saying, "So think about it. Desirable means what? There's a sexual connotation attached to this. So we're actually looking at women in that way in films. And we're looking at women in that way in films because we have only shown mostly that to people in films."

Even as a producer she had to face disparity, she began her production journey with NH10 , she said "Even when actors produce films, they get a huge amount of money but with actresses it's really not that. We had to literally say I'll produce the film so that the film can be made on that much of a budget. Otherwise this film cannot be made. You feel that discrimination."

—ETimes

Importance of family bonds

JOTHEYAGI HITHAVAGI
2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** AR Krishna
- **ACTORS** Agastya, Suvartha, Anand Ninasam, Bhumika Deshpande, Chetan Durga
- **CERTIFICATION** U
- **Duration** 148 minutes

Director AR Krishna has tried to convey a message to parents and children with Jotheyagi Hithavagi. The film throws light on the need of parents to respect children's feelings by giving them freedom within limits. It also emphasises on the importance of parents spending quality time with their children and the need for young men and women to not make hasty decisions about marriage.

The dialogues of this film will make parents introspect. Music director Anand Rajavikraman has done an excellent job with background music that adds value to the movie. The movie also showcases unexplored beautiful locations around Belagavi, for which credit must go to cinematographer Prasad Nayak.

The movie begins with Shankara (Anand Ninasam) mourning his wife's death. His son Karun is seen crying. Shankara decides not to marry again and brings up his son in discipline. He asks his son not to change decisions as per his whims. Karun (Agastya) joins a marketing company. Kavya (Suvartha) also joins the company and Karun falls in love with her but is unable to express his love. His father asks him to marry Sindhu (Bhumika Deshpande) and gives him two days to make a decision. Meanwhile, he decides to propose to Kavya.

Agastya, who makes debut as a hero, has made a good effort but he needs to further hone his acting skills. Suvartha and Bhumika Deshpande provide good support. Anand Ninsam, as a traditional father who sticks to his principles, is convincing but a few scenes, especially the hotel scene, fail to impress.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

A love story that will make you laugh too

ARASAYYANA PREMA PRASANGA
3.5 RATING ★★★½☆
- **DIRECTOR** JVR Deepu
- **ACTORS** Mahantesh Hiremath, Rashmita R Gowda, PD Sathish, Raghu Ramanakoppa, Vijay Chendur, MS Jahangir, Chillar Manju
- **CERTIFICATION** U
- **Duration** 123 minutes

Arasayyana Prema Prasanga is a classic example of how to make a movie without spending much money and without casting established actors. JVR Deepu, basically a writer, debuts as a director in Sandalwood with this movie. Mahantesh Hiremath, known for playing comic parts, joins the list of comedians, including Sharan and Chikkanna, who went on to play lead roles.

The movie's dialogues are rib-tickling. And all its actors have lived up to the expectations. The director has succeeded in making this movie a hilarious entertainment for around two hours. He could have reduced the run time by 10 minutes to make it a tighter entertainer. There are some scenes such as a chase sequence that serve no purpose.

The movie begins with Arasayya (Mahantesh Hiremath), a deaf priest and a singer engaged during funerals, singing a song - Ayyoyyo Rama Kanmunde Drama - at the funeral of a village leader. Later, the director introduces a flashback narrating how Arasayya's parents and a marriage broker (MS Jahangir) struggled to find a suitable life partner for him. It also narrates how Arasayya met Kumari (Rashmi R Gowda) who is posted at the Post Office and falls in love with her. Initially, Kumari tries to avoid Arasayya but later she wants to be with him. Arasayya's parents and Kumari's parents give their consent for their marriage. You have to watch the movie to know whether or not Arasayya and Kumari get married after all.

The movie has been shot in rural areas. The scenes portraying villagers, including a 'deaf' grandmother who depends on an old portable radio and her old age pension, the tea shop owner who inadvertently mixes saliva with tea and serves it to his customer, a stingy parent who loves uddina vade, are hilarious.

As far as the performances of the actors are concerned, Mahantesh has proved his acting skills. PD Satish, who acted as the hero's sidekick, is at his best. His dialogue delivery and gestures are praiseworthy. Rashmita R Gowda can be an asset for Sandalwood if she focuses on her acting career. MS Jahangir, Raghu Ramanakoppa, and Vijay Chendur provide good support.

It is worth a watch for all audiences.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

Stylish ride

Ibrahim Ali Khan, son of Saif Ali Khan and Amrita Singh, recently created a buzz as he made a stylish appearance that left fans and onlookers in awe. Known for his charming personality and fashion sense, the young star once again proved why he is quickly becoming a favourite among Bollywood enthusiasts.

In a video shared by Viralbhayani on Instagram, the young actor was seen stepping out in a striking red MG Cyberster EV, worth Rs 75 lakh, as reported by Carwale. But it wasn't just the luxury ride that caught everyone's attention. Dressed in a light pink shirt paired with crisp white pants, Ibrahim showed that understated style has its own charm.

As soon as Ibrahim stepped out of his stylish car, he was quickly surrounded by young fans. True to his approachable nature, he took the time to click selfies with them, leaving the crowd thrilled. His friendly interaction made it clear that he values his fans and enjoys connecting with them.

Apart from his style, Ibrahim recently impressed fans again with his honesty in a new ad. He openly talked about his lisp.

—ETimes

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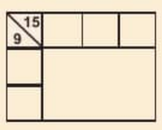
@BangaloreMirror

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

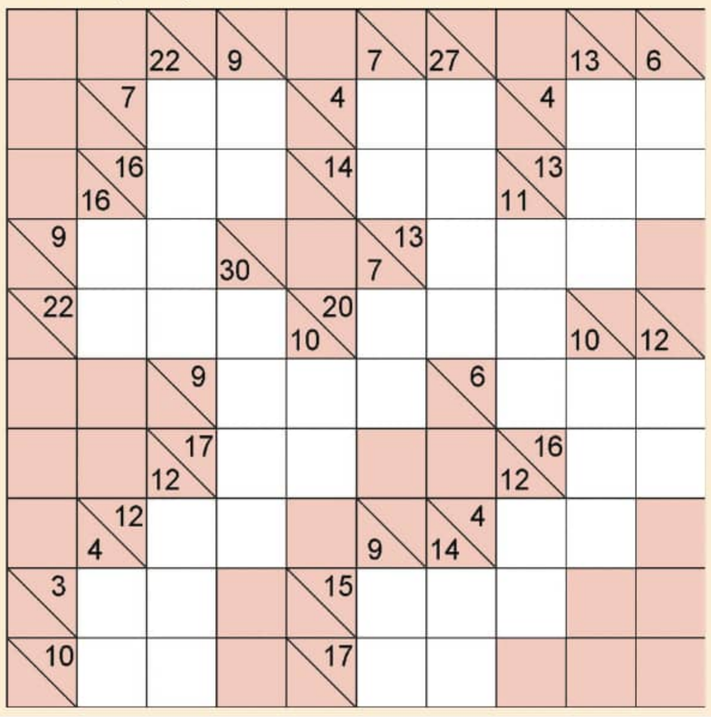
((16^3) / 4) / 16^(3/4) = ?

Kakuro

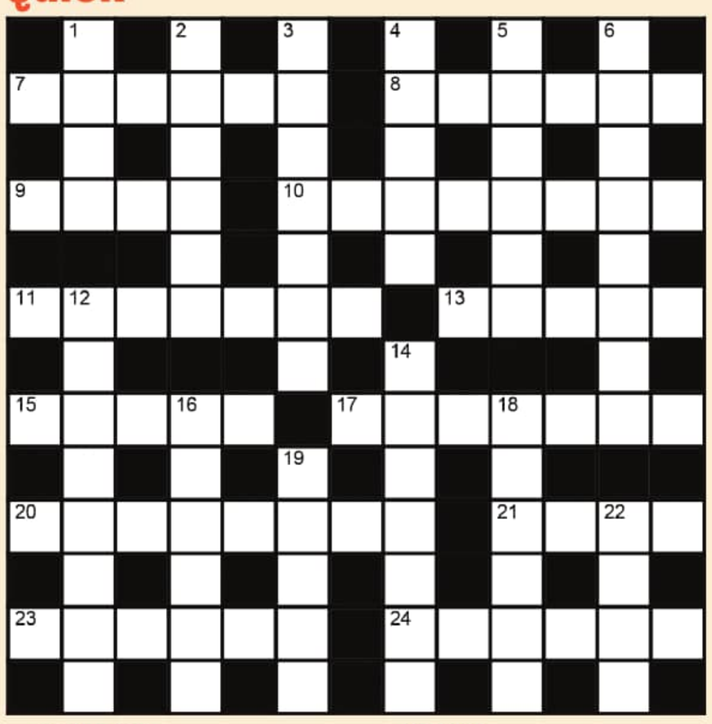
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 One-dimensional (6)
8 In a ___ : in a plight or in trouble? (6)
9 Hair curling process (4)
10 Fail to impress? (3,2,3)
11 Screened off or cut out (7)
13 Used an axe? (5)
15 Thanksgiving hymn (5)
17 Sets alight, ignites (7)
20 See __ __ __ : agree on what's important? (3,2,3)
21 In a high degree (4)
23 Cuisine which is a fusion of Kodava and Mangalorean (6)
24 Hidden or screened (6)

DOWN

1 Bear, beget or father (4)
2 ___ Melville : famous author of Moby Dick? (6)
3 Game or insect? (7)
4 Vindictiveness (5)
5 Start of a play (3,3)
6 One result of a punch in the face? (5,3)
12 It has 366 days (4,4)
14 Mentally confused (5-2)
16 Thespian's task (6)
18 Come up with (6)
19 Gives food to (5)
22 Regretted (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: C EQUALS Y

DBBH R EFOZL SNY XBJBZ CBRYX RZM CNG'KK SOZM R GXB SNY OE.

Linemaro

You are why the sun shines, you are the reason flowers bloom

Mindchow

Space isn't remote at all; it's only an hours drive away if your car could go straight upwards

Joke of the day

I feel like I'm diagonally parked in a parallel universe

Loop

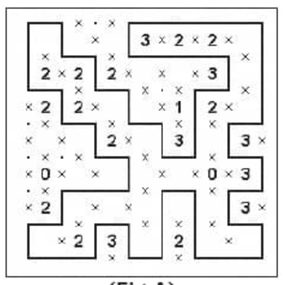
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

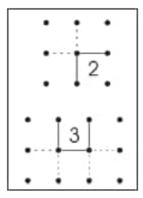
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

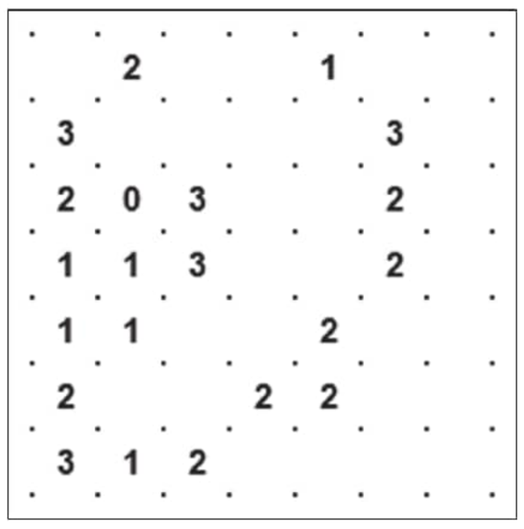
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



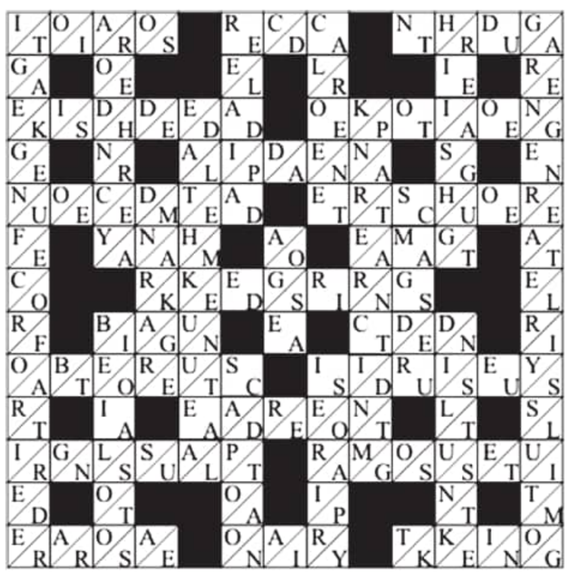
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



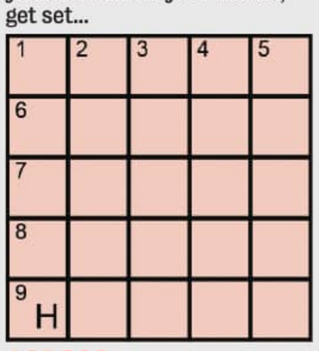
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 The as; 6 Amain;
7 Or Its; 8 Norse;
9 he pro

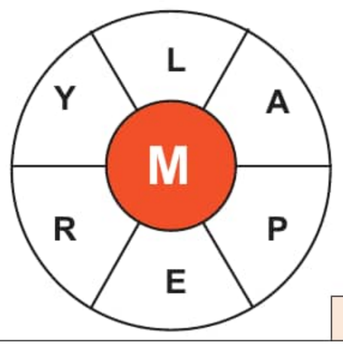
DOWN

1 R hash; 2 Naomi;
3 No sop; 4 Trite;
5 Saree

Mensapuzzle

What is missing from the last hexagon?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

16 Average; **18** Good; **20** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

			4		5			
	4			1			2	
6	9			8			1	5
2			1		8			3
		5	7		3	8		
3			6		9			2
7	1			6			9	4
	3			7			6	
			9		1			

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

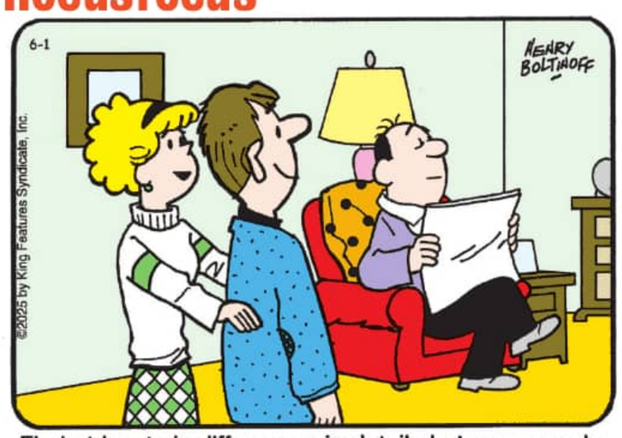
Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 6
2 4 8 8

Medium = 15
2 5 7 8

Hard = 13
3 5 6 8

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

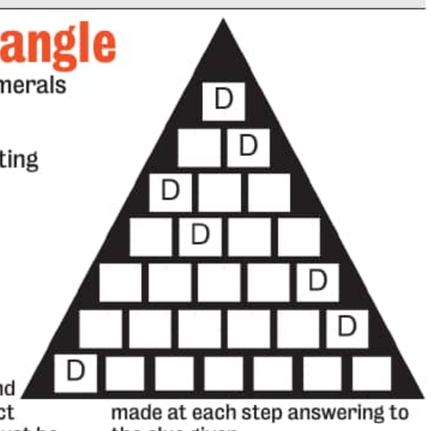
Differences: 1. Leg is higher. 2. Arm is longer. 3. Newspaper is larger. 4. Stripe on sleeve is missing. 5. Hair is different. 6. Frame is different.

Riddler

Before I came, confusion abounded. I'm late, I'm late was frequently sounded. I'm not average, but was based on a mean. My size, in theory, is constant: fifteen. I'm two dozen steps, again in theory. But walk my length and you'd get weary. I take half and quarter steps at times. In reality, I don't follow the lines. I shrink to nothing in two cold extremes. Over a thousand miles wide in the betweens. What am I?

Alpha triangle

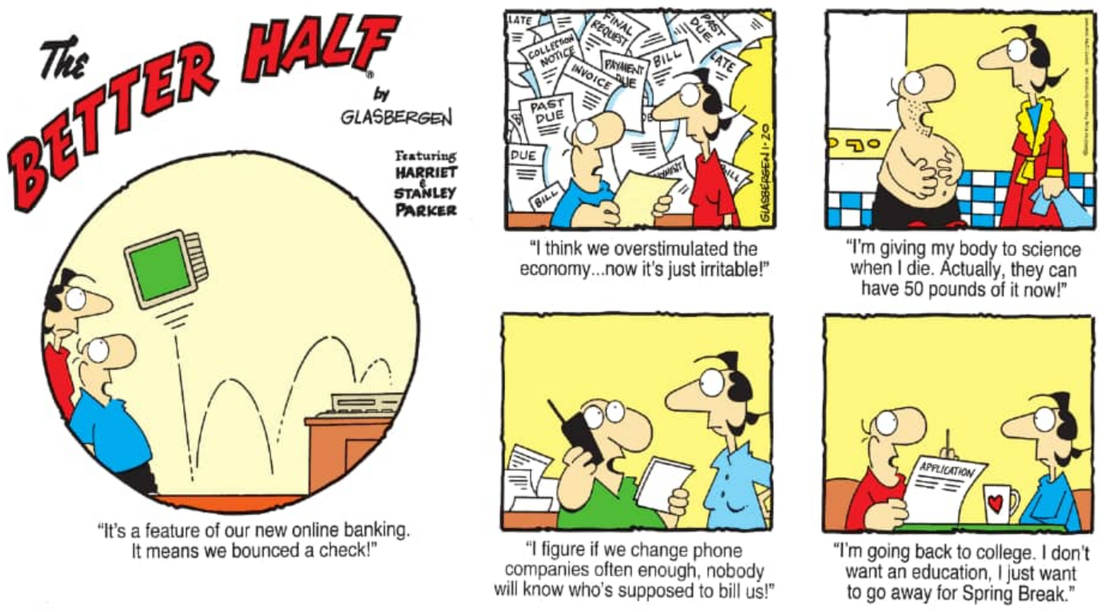
1 500 in Roman numerals
2 Identity, abbr.
3 Pass away
4 Prepare for printing
5 Sampled
6 Split apart
7 Vagrant

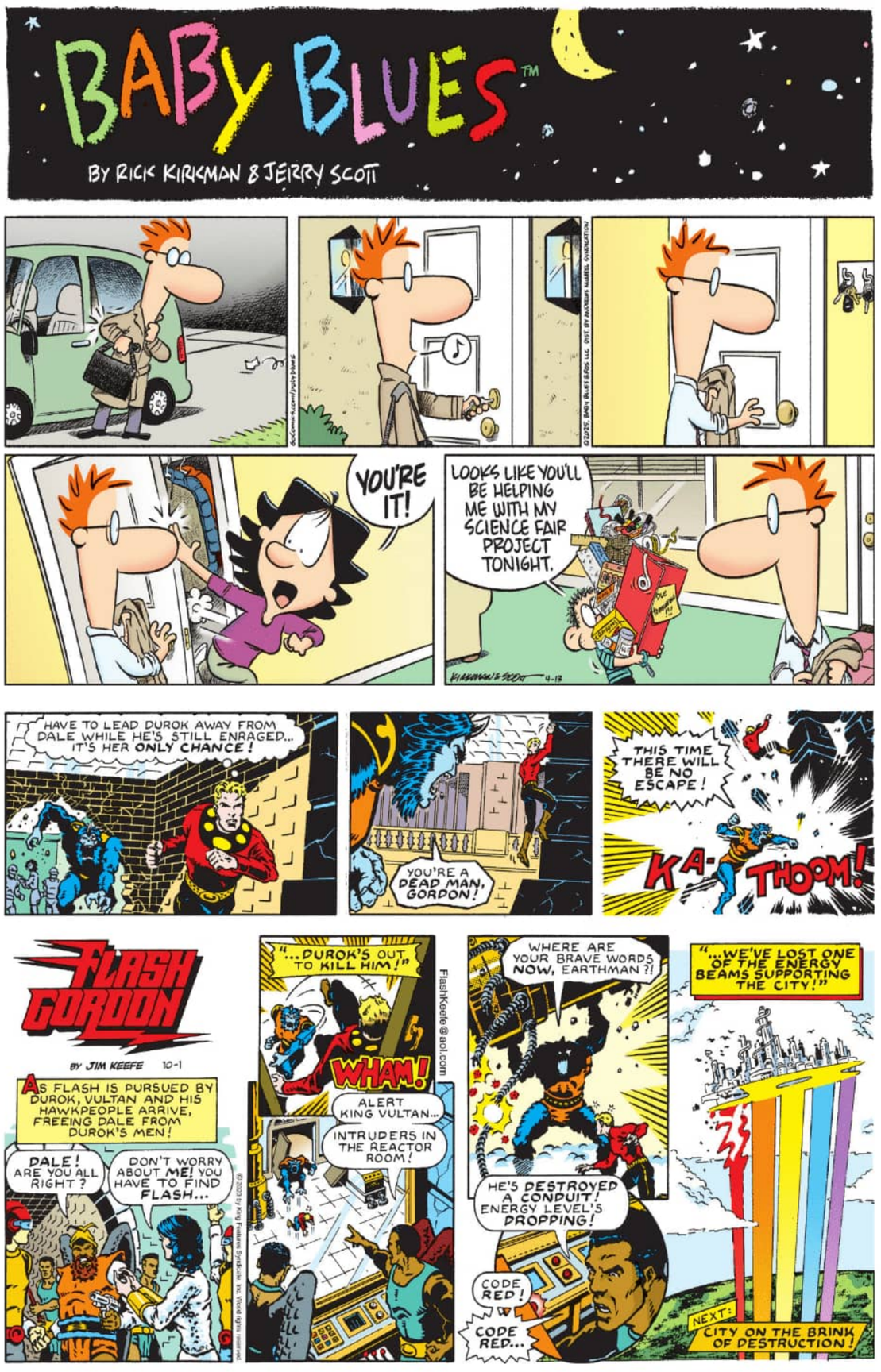


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS





WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

This birthday sparks inspiration. Finances improve with careful, consistent management. Career prospects advance as you showcase your unique talents. Love thrives on open-hearted conversations and shared laughter. Luck accompanies bold but calculated risks. Tip: Embrace lifelong learning, gaining new skills and knowledge will empower you to meet challenges with confidence and attract exciting opportunities.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Courage leads the way, take bold action toward your dreams. Trust that this confidence opens doors to success, while inspiring others to believe in themselves and pursue their own ambitions.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Find peace in stillness. A restful moment, reading, meditating, or simply breathing deeply, restores emotional balance. These calming practices strengthen your resilience and prepare you for the demands ahead.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Your social skills shine. Reach out to old friends or make new connections. Networking strengthens relationships and creates opportunities that support your personal and professional growth beautifully.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Embrace emotional healing, acknowledge your feelings and release what no longer serves you. This openness creates space for love, joy, and new opportunities to flourish in your personal relationships.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Recognition for your talents grows. Use this moment to showcase your creativity and leadership skills. Your confidence and authenticity attract admiration and support, moving you closer to your ambitions.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Clarity comes from simplifying your life. Focus on essentials, letting go of unnecessary stress. This streamlined approach allows you to accomplish more while maintaining harmony and balance in your daily routine.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Love surrounds you, express gratitude and affection toward those who matter most. Small acts of kindness strengthen bonds, creating harmony and joy in your closest relationships and personal connections.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Transformation feels empowering. Trust your instincts when navigating change, these shifts are aligning you with your highest potential. Embrace them fully, knowing growth often begins where comfort ends.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Explore new experiences that ignite your adventurous spirit. Whether through learning, travel, or creative pursuits, these opportunities expand your perspective and fuel your excitement for the journey ahead.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Dedication pays off, celebrate your progress and use it as motivation to keep going. Your discipline builds a strong foundation for future achievements, ensuring lasting success in your endeavors.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Collaboration inspires you. Partner with like-minded people to bring innovative ideas to life. These collective efforts lead to breakthroughs, enhancing both your personal satisfaction and your professional achievements.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Reflect quietly to find emotional balance. Spending time in nature or creative expression helps process feelings, restoring peace and guiding you toward thoughtful, heart-centered decisions.

www.sundeepkochar.com

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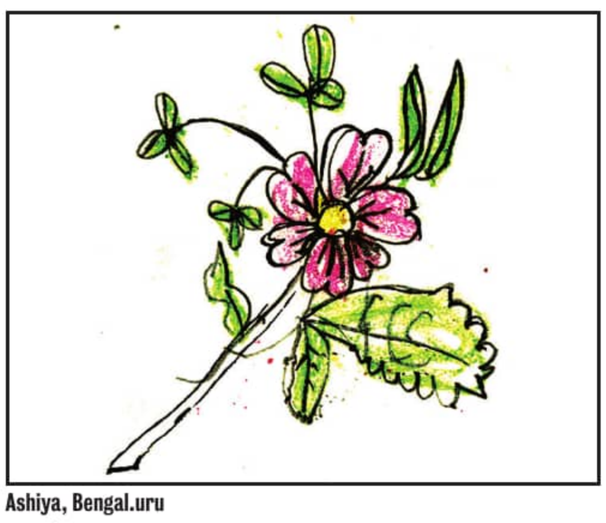

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SOLUTIONS

BULL'S EYE
ample, ampler, amply, amyl, army, lame, lamer, lamp, ream, LAMPREY, male, maple, mare, meal, mealy, palm, perm, pram, ramp, realm,

RIDDLER
Time zones.

FAST FIVE

H	A	S	T	E
A	M	N	I	A
S	N	O	R	E
R	I	O	T	S
H	O	P	E	R

QUOTE UNCODE
Keep a thing for seven years and you'll find a use for it.

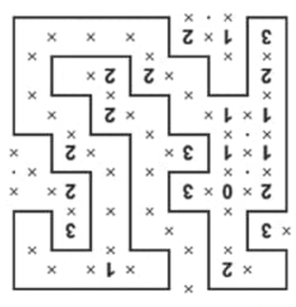
STRIKE OUT

T	O	R	S		R	C	C		T	H	U	G		
A		O		E		L		E		E				
K	I	D	D	E	D		O	P	T	I	O	N		
E		N		L	I	A	N	A		G		E		
N	E	E	D	E	D		E	T	C	H	E	R		
F		Y	A	M		A		E	A	T		A		
O		K	E	D	G	I	N	G				L		
R		B	A	N		E		T	E	D		I		
A	B	O	R	T	S		S	I	R	I	U	S		
R		A		A	A	R	O	N		L		S		
I	N	S	U	L	T		A	G	O	U	T	I		
D		T		A		P			T		M			
E	A	S	E		N	A	Y		K	E	N	O		

KAKURO

				22	9		7	27		13	6			
			7	5	2	4	1	3	4	3	1			
		16	9	7		14	6	8	11	8	5			
	9	7	2		30		13	7	4	2				
22	9	6	7		20	5	9	6						
				7										
		9	6	1		2	1	2	3					
		12	17	8	9		16	7	9					
	4	12	3	3	9	9	14	3	1					
			12											
	3	1	2			15	1	5	9					
	10	3	7			17	8	9						

LOOP



ALPHA TRIANGLE
D, Id, Die, Edit, Tried, Rifted, Drifter.

GO FIGURE
Easy
2 + 4 − 8 + 8 = 6
Medium
2 − 7 + 8 × 5 = 15
Hard
5 × 3 + 6 − 8 = 13

SUDOKU

8	2	1	4	9	5	7	3	6
5	4	7	3	1	6	9	2	8
6	9	3	2	8	7	4	1	5
2	7	9	1	4	8	6	5	3
1	6	5	7	2	3	8	4	9
3	8	4	6	5	9	1	7	2
7	1	8	5	6	2	3	9	4
9	3	2	8	7	4	5	6	1
4	5	6	9	3	1	2	8	7

MENSA PUZZLE
17. As you move to the right, double the first number to give the next one, then subtract 5. Repeat this sequence.

SOLVE IN 1M
(4096/4) / 16^.75 =
1024 / 8 =
128

QUICK

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A story of love that endures
of bonds that remain
even with the ones who drive us nuts
but whom we'll always love.

THIS DEEPAVALI GIFT A STORY GIFT BOLAS

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